

3/30/77 *Argentina the groups*  
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DECLARATION OF THE U.P.A.R.F.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafield, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny  
Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full  
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to  
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Since the coup d'etat of March 24, 1976, the Argentine press and other media workers (journalists, illustrators, lay-out artists, printers, etc.) constitute one of the main targets of the repression meted out by the military government. The constant violation of human rights has already made this government known and denounced all over the world.

Workers in the information field were not an arbitrary choice. Throughout Argentine history there have been examples of a free press, defending democracy, justice and citizens' rights. Conscious of the fundamental role that information, science and culture play in a democratic society, the military government chooses numerous victims from these branches. Working for freedom, culture, the defense of human rights and the free circulation of ideas, is rewarded today in Argentina with the sufferings of prison life, torture, or death.

The military dictatorship has established absolute censorship of the press. It tracks down journalists, professors, research workers and actors, that is, anyone whose contact with information would enable him to denounce the daily terrorism.

Thus newspapers, magazines, radio stations and television channels have been closed down, one after the other. Numerous journalists have been suspended or fired, menaced with economic sanctions or brought to trial before military tribunals. At least 21 journalists have been assassinated, 21 are reported missing, and 31 are in prison, where their lives remain in danger.

Recently the European press has denounced the government's apparent intention to shoot 40 political prisoners. Among them are the journalists Eduardo Jozami and Pedro Cazes Camarero. The journalist Dardo Cabo, arrested in 1975, was shot to death in prison and his body abandoned in a street in Buenos Aires. The Uruguayan journalist Enrique Rodriguez Larreta, arrested by a paramilitary commando in Buenos Aires, was handed over to the Uruguayan military dictatorship, in violation of all provisions of international law.

As though this repression and the absolute control over the press were not sufficient, recently all trade union activity was prohibited. The three union organizations that together included all Argentine journalists - SINDICATO ARGENTINO DE PRENSA (SAP), ASOCIACION DE PERIODISTAS DE BUENOS AIRES (APBA), CIRCULO DE PERIODISTAS ARGENTINOS - were placed under military control the day after the coup. This measure is hardly an isolated case, since all constitutional rights have been suppressed, political parties suspended or outlawed; and the national labor union (CGT), which includes all Argentine workers, is also under military control.

As for economic considerations, the Argentine press experiences the same process of concentration of power and capital into ever fewer hands that is familiar to other countries. Consequently there is no job security, and threats weigh against the free practice of the profession. Political censorship tolerates no dissident expression, and control, blackmail and economic boycott are used against any press that tries to maintain a minimum of independence.

Thus, the independent organs of the press and their writers who have survived attacks, kidnappings and prison, cannot continue their mission. Many organs of the media who decided after the military take-over not to confront the dictatorship (which was politically impossible), but merely to preserve an independence of opinion, have been forced to close down. This was the case for the monthlies Cuestionario, directed by Rodolfo Terragno, and Crisis, directed by Eduardo Galeano.

Although the Argentine press is presently in an exceptionally dangerous predicament, we believe that the problems of the Press are fundamentally the same all over the world. Newspapers everywhere, regardless of their individual differences and difficulties, must face the same dangers - restrictions on the free circulation of ideas, and job instability. These dangers simply reach their maximum force in political circumstances such as those in which the Argentine people find themselves today.

The Argentine government claims to justify its action as a defense of "the Western and Christian way of life." But in only one year it has reaped the unanimous condemnation of Western governments and political parties, churches and international organizations. Its economic program has driven the great majority of the population into poverty and unemployment. In one year purchasing power decreased 51%, and the cost of living increased 347.2%. Wages now comprise only 32% of the national revenue (48% before the coup), and the gross industrial product has gone down 3.6%.

We Argentine writers living in France, of many different political persuasions, who desire the return of democracy in our country, have decided to group ourselves within the UPARF (UNION DE PERIODISTAS ARGENTINOS EN FRANCIA) for the purposes of

- 1) establishing contact with French trade unions and democratic writers' organizations the world over, to create an active solidarity for
  - the reinstitution of freedom of the press in Argentina
  - the freeing of kidnapped and imprisoned writers
  - the material and moral support and security for their families
- 2) establishing contact with French journalists and the media in general on a strictly professional level, to furnish objective information about what is happening in Argentina:

Paris, March 30, 1977

35th Meeting of the  
Executive Committee Meeting of the IFJ  
BRUSSELS, may 2 - 7, 1977

DRAFT

ARGENTINE

The Executive Committee of the International Federation of Journalists having received reports of a serious deterioration in the personal and professional situation of journalists and editors, including foreign correspondents, in Argentina, expresses its abhorrence over the brutal repression of press freedom in that country. These reports show that numerous colleagues have been killed and many others have disappeared without trace. A large number are in jail.

The IFJ demands that the Argentine authorities put an end to these flagrant basic rights which are intolerable in any civilised country.

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*Enrique Olea,  
Latin correspondent in  
Brussels  
Sec. Gen. of Int. Fed.  
Assn. of Press Workers*

35th. Meeting of the  
Executive Committee Meeting  
BRUSSELS, May 2 - 7, 1977

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AID TO ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS

The Executive Committee instructs the Secretary General and the Bureau to:

1. inquire into the position and status of the IFJ affiliate in Argentina, and
2. investigate and determine what IFJ and its member organisations should do to help and support the journalists in Argentina as well as those living in exile.